2 January 1973

Dear Harold:

Since your note of Dec. 15 asking about a Jack Anderson article in Parade on Castro's gambling commissar (whom you now suspect to have been Sturgis-Fiorini) I have been trying to get hold of Hal to ask him about it, as we have no recollection of such an article.

Finally made it tonight, and after an hour or so he called back to say he at least had found a reference to it: Chapter 3 of OinNO, pages 67-69, is based mostly on this article and dates it as April23, 1963. Beyond that, Hal says he thinks he remembers the article, and will look for it if he can remember where it might be in files stashed around in the basements of various friends. He thinks he had it at one time.

To clean up some other odds and ends in your 43 through 46 which have come in:

Thanks, but we'll pass the Patman hearing transcript. Kind of you to think of us, but at this stage where we're trying to get the mountains of material we already have under some sort of control we're incapable of dealing with it adequately.

The Chronicle carried Broder's story on how Nixon is placing his trusted hatchetmen in key positions. They may not have all of it, but certainly enough for our purposes.

Re Will Lissner of the NYTimes, I'd guess he was about 25 in 1938, very young for a foreign correspondent. That would make him about 60 now, so the NYTimes man could, of course, be a son or younger relative. You made an earlier reference to him, pointing out that the Nazis had ways of making Jews work for them. Yes, I assumed at the time that something like that was possibly going on, perhaps pressure on rich relatives and so on. No way of knowing. Certainly I had no reason to think Lissner himself was in any way pro-Nazi.

Your handwritten note in 46 asking for anything on the Cuban Secret Government: We recall nothing on this but will be on the lookout, especially for names.

Yes, we would like to have a chance to hear your tape of your conversation with LF on Dorothy Hunt. May I suggest it might be wise to send a dub ? No point in losing it or running any risk of losing it. No hurry.

We're holding the material you sent on Brian Ampolsk for a while until we get a change to study it and possibly make some notes. I've read it, and it seems he should have been able to provide at least some knowledge of the people who were with Oswald, but beyond that I can't say that I find myself bubbling over with bright ideas. Thanks for sending it.

Well, I have a feeling our GL has blown his landslide mandate by ordering the bombing stopped after an unprededented upwelling of adverse opinion at home and abroad, and now stands exposed as a pitiful helpless giant who can't make up his mind and stay with it. This guy is in bad shape. This is the worst defeat in his entire career, based on total miscalculation of

his adversary's character and of the reaction of normal human beings around the world. He remains on the horns of an excruciating dilemma, between the intransigeance of his own admirals and generals (and their ally, Thieu) and the opinion of the rest of the human race. He will be lucky if the North Vietnamese, as they say they will, will go back to the October peace agreement and don't make any further demands. Henry returns to Paris with zero bargaining power except further threats. The one hopeful element is that by now the military must have learned from firsthand experience how ineffective their bombers are in this kind of struggle. After the bombing resumed, I suppose you noticed how few of them in the field overlooked any opportunity to make it clear that this was not their idea, that they were just carrying out orders, and some even went so far as to say the purpose was entirely political to get the North Vietnamese back tothe bargaining table. I can't recall ever having heard military men talk like that before. These are men in the field, not those at Pearl Harbor.

The retreat to Camp David becomes every day more obviously just that -- a retreat, by a man who appears literally afraid to see anyone except an occasional football coach. The Chronicle ran a WX Post story today by Carroll Kilpatrick enumerating all the things Nixon has been avoiding like meetings with his joint chiefs, the cabinet, newsmen etc etc.

Ready, Spiro ?

With that cheerful thought, I subside and get this on its way.

Best,

jdw

Enclosed is a Chronicle story on British flu, as experienced locally. We both feel that in choosing this type instead of the customary Asian flu we have discharged at least some of our obligation to our staunch NATO ally.